



A READ GUIDE for Families

Seed Magic

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Objectives:

The overarching goal of the Atlanta Speech School's Rollins Center for Language & Literacy partnership with the Summer Reading club is to empower children to use their voices to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.

The objectives of this interactive experience are to:

- Transfer ownership of the story from you as the reader to the children.
- “Push-in” key vocabulary that build oral language necessary for students to express themselves.
- Teach key concepts that cause children to think critically about the story problem.

Big Ideas:

Big ideas are take away points students should have at the end of this reading experience.

- You can make your own beauty in the world.
- Even if something turns out different from what you expected, you can still enjoy it.
- Kindness and friendship can come from unexpected people.

Engaging in Meaningful Conversations:

“Seed Magic” should serve as the foundation to engage in meaningful conversations with children. Children will have questions, opinions, ideas, and comments as they try to make sense of what was read.

A meaningful conversation will expose children to an array of thoughts and ideas. In order for meaningful dialogue to occur, the following should be explained to students and kept in mind.

1. We might not always realize that our way of life is good, but we should respect others' right to have an opinion.

Kid-Friendly Example: We might not all like the same toys. You might dislike army toys, but your friend thinks that army toys are awesome. You don't have to like army toys because your friend does; you just have different opinions from each other.

2. Everyone's voice is powerful. What someone has to say is important. This means we should listen to and respect other people's voices. Allow others to share their voice without interruption and don't tell others to be quiet.



R Repeat The Book

Repeat the book 3 to 5 times over the course of several days. When we repeat books, we give children the opportunity to hear vocabulary words several times. When reading with your children, talk about the story problem, the important events, and the characters' thoughts and feelings.

To introduce this book for the first time, read the title along with the author's name, and say, "This book is about a little girl named Rose who lives in a city. The man who feeds birds gives her magic seeds to grow a garden. I wonder if she can grow a beautiful, colorful garden in the dirty, gray city. Let's read and find out." As you read, explain any words your child may not understand like garden, tar, slick, and sill. Act out words like wink, make like a bowl, and sprinkle. Point to illustrations as you say words to help support vocabulary, such as pigeons, lupines, geraniums, and sunflowers.

You can talk about why Birdman feeds the birds (possibly because he thinks they are beautiful), or how Rose felt when her garden wasn't growing (possibly sad, disappointed, or impatient) or how she felt at the end of the story when her garden came alive with singing birds (possibly happy because she finally had a beautiful garden in the dirty, gray city). After reading the book a few times, children should be able to help you recall the main events. As you go through the book, instead of reading all the words, encourage your child to tell you what is happening on each page and how the characters feel about what is happening. After repeated readings, they become the storyteller!

E Engage and Enjoy

Have fun! Use gestures, actions, and sounds to keep children engaged in the story. Enjoy acting out parts of the story and invite children to make motions and sounds with you.

A Ask Questions

Talking about the book is the most important thing! Ask a different "Why" question at the end of each reading. "Why" questions encourage critical thinking and encourage children to talk, solve problems, and explore concepts. Examples: Why did Birdman enjoy feeding the birds? Why do the children say that Birdman is crazy? Why did Birdman share his seeds with Rose? Why did Rose's brothers laugh when she put the seeds on the window sill?

D Do More With The Book

Continue the fun of the story by choosing some activities to complete with your child.

- Take a walk through your neighborhood and search for colorful plants and gardens like the one Rose imagined in the story.
- Visit the Atlanta Zoo to see some of the colorful birds from the book. You can receive 4 free tickets if you visit your local library and check out a DVD about the zoo.



- Visit your local library and read other books about gardens.
 - *Lola Plants a Garden* by Anna McQuinn
 - *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
 - *How Does My Garden Grow?* by Gerda Muller
 - *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle
- Design a garden using markers, crayons, and paint.
- Make puppets to represent the characters in the story. Encourage your child to retell the story using the puppets.
- Recite the poem “Mary, Mary Quite Contrary”
Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells,
And pretty maids all in a row.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Garden:** an area of ground where plants are grown
- **Slick:** smooth and slippery
- **Tar:** a thick, sticky black liquid made from coal
- **Windowsill:** the shelf at the bottom of a window frame

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the children said that Birdman was crazy?
2. Why do you think Birdman decided to share his seeds with Rose?
3. What type of garden do you think Rose was expecting to grow on her windowsill?
4. How do you think Rose felt about her singing garden of birds?

Extension Activities:

1. Ask children to plan a way to add some beauty to their own world. They could create decorations to put up indoors, clean up around your home, plant their own flowers or garden, etc.
2. Have children imagine that they are Rose. Write a letter to or draw a picture for Birdman to thank him for the magic seeds.
3. Take children on a bird watching walk through your neighborhood. Can you see any pigeons? Are there any colorful birds like the ones that made up Rose’s singing garden?

